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## PATENT SPECIFICATION



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### PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

#### Apparatus for use in Playing Games of Skill.

We, CHARLES LANE, BELTON TATNALL HAMILTON, and THOMAS MURPHY, all of 5 and 6, Eden Street, Hampstead Road, London, N.W. 1, all British subjects, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention relates to apparatus for use in playing games of skill, and comprises a horizontally disposed table disc or board, mounted so as to rotate about a vertical spindle or axis, and provided with means such as a knob, handle or driving band or gear adapted to be operated or controlled by hand to control the starting and stopping and the speed of revolution of the table.

The upper surface of the table is preferably concave. Around, but separated from the periphery of the table, arranged in circular disposition, are a series of stationary pockets or divisions close to and preferably slightly below the level of the outer edge of the table. These pockets are of such size as to accommodate spherical balls which are used in the game. The pockets are each numbered with different numerical values. The game is played by placing a ball on the table and by gently spinning the table the ball is induced under the influence of centrifugal force to climb the concave surface of the table until near the outer edge or periphery, it is then retained by the player in this position by control of the spinning speed until tangentially opposite to the pocket into which it is desired to project the ball. When in the correct position a sharp flick forward or acceleration of the table in the direction of revolution with an instantly following flick backwards will cause the ball to travel tangentially off the table into the desired pocket. Great skill and care are required to be exercised to get the ball gradually near the edge of the table in correct position before being finally flicked off, and addi-

tional skill is necessary to time the flick at the correct moment when tangentially opposite the desirable pocket. The game may be played in various ways.

For instance, two or more players may play against each other by pre-arrangement each player having a predetermined number of balls, the winner being the individual who scores the highest aggregate according to the added numerical values of the pockets into which the balls are placed, or as an alternative a prize may be allotted to the player, each player alternately manipulating a ball, who first places a ball in a predetermined pocket. In other cases each player may be provided with a revolving table and a ball or balls and may all play simultaneously, the winner being the individual who scores the highest aggregate with the number of balls provided. In some cases some of the pockets may be arranged to be blanks having no numerical value. In some cases, to prevent cheating, it is desirable that once the ball has gone into a pocket it cannot be tampered with or removed by the player until it has been seen and the numerical value of the pocket ascertained by a checker or umpire. In these latter cases the revolving table may be enclosed in a sealed box having a glass top so arranged that the table, ball and pockets may be seen but not touched, means being provided for dropping the ball down a chute or the like on to the table and with further means for rotating the table by a shaft or other suitable mechanism passing through a hole or slot in the top, bottom or side of the casing with a manipulating handle or knob exterior to the casing. In some cases the pockets may have removable bottoms or sides so arranged, that after one or more balls have been placed in a pocket or pockets, the umpire controlling the game may be able, by suitable means,

incapable of being operated by the players, to remove the bottoms or sides to allow the balls to drop through into a drawer, hopper or chute situated below the tables or in the bottom of the casing. A suitable means of accomplishing this purpose is to form the pockets in the shape of a series of circular holes arranged in a circle around the edge of the revolving table cut to coincide with each other through two discs or plates, one or other or both being capable of being rotatably moved in reference each to each, the holes in the top plate forming the sides of the pockets and the interspaces between the holes in the lower plate forming the bottom of the pockets when the holes in the two plates do not register in such manner that when one plate is moved to bring the holes into register the balls are allowed to drop through into a drawer or chute as described.

In some cases the apparatus may be arranged so as to act in an automatic or semi-automatic manner, the pockets or some of them being provided with means whereby, when a ball falls into the

pocket, a lever, spring or other device is operated to release a prize or return the players' money, means being provided whereby the ball or balls in any of the pockets are returned to the disc, for replay, on the insertion of a fresh coin.

The table or rotatory playing surface may be plain, corrugated, or may be provided with obstacles, trackways, or the like, whereby the passage of the ball to the periphery may be lengthened, obstructed or rendered tortuous.

Instead of a table we may employ a tube in which the ball may travel out radially to be discharged into one of the pockets.

Generally it may be stated that the apparatus comprises a rotatory carrier for a ball or the like and stationary receptacles around the carrier for the receipt of the ball when projected by the action of the player in the rotatory carrier.

Dated this 12th day of December, 1922.

DICKER & POLJAK,  
Chartered Patent Agents,  
20-23, Holborn, London, E.C. 1,  
Agents for the Applicants.

## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

### Apparatus for use in Playing Games of Skill.

We, CHARLES LANE, BELTON TATNALL HAMILTON, and THOMAS MURPHY, all of 5 and 6, Eden Street, Hampstead Road, London, N.W. 1, all British subjects, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

Apparatus for use in playing games of skill has been proposed wherein a rotatable dished disc is arranged within a stationary board provided with a series of numbered compartments or holes arranged concentric with the disc and adapted to receive and retain a ball therein when thrown off from the surface of the disc when the latter is rotated. In another form of apparatus a flat rotatable disc is provided with a central tubular tower into which the ball or balls are delivered and from which they escape through a lower lateral hole when the disc is rotated.

According to the present invention in the improved apparatus the above features are combined, and means are also provided for retaining and releasing the balls deposited in the numbered compartments so that at the end of the game or when the disc ceases spinning the player

can see the score he has made, whereupon the balls can be quickly released and collected for further play, or allowed to accumulate below the disc. The invention therefore consists in the combination of an inner central rotatable member having a concave upper surface, an outer stationary circular member having a series of holes or compartments adapted to receive a ball projected centrifugally from the central member when the latter is rotated and a hollow central shaft into which the ball to be projected is dropped, and from whence it passes out centrifugally on to the rotatable member integral with the shaft.

The upper surface of the table is concave. Around, but separated from the periphery of the table, arranged in circular disposition, are a series of stationary pockets or divisions close to and preferably slightly below the level of the outer edge of the table. These pockets are of such size as to accommodate spherical balls which are used in the game. The pockets are each numbered with different numerical values. The game is played by placing a ball on the table and by gently spinning the table the ball is induced under the influence of centrifugal force to climb the concave

surface of the table until near the outer edge or periphery, it is then retained by the player in this position by control of the spinning speed until tangentially opposite to the pocket into which it is desired to project the ball. When in the correct position a sharp flick forward or acceleration of the table in the direction of revolution with an instantly following check will cause the ball to travel tangentially off the table into the desired pocket. Great skill and care are required to be exercised to get the ball gradually near the edge of the table in correct position before being finally flicked off, and additional skill is necessary to time the flick at the correct moment when tangentially opposite the desired pocket. The game may be played in various ways.

For instance, two or more players may play against each other by pre-arrangement each player having a predetermined number of balls, the winner being the individual who scores the highest aggregate according to the added numerical values of the pockets into which the balls are placed, or as an alternative a prize may be allotted to the player, each player alternately manipulating a ball, who first places a ball in a predetermined pocket. In other cases each player may be provided with a revolving table and a ball or balls and they may all play simultaneously, the winner being the individual who scores the highest aggregate with the number of balls provided. In some cases some of the pockets may be arranged to be blanks having no numerical value. In some cases, to prevent cheating, it is desirable that once the ball has gone into a pocket it cannot be tampered with or removed by the player until it has been seen and the numerical value of the pocket ascertained by a checker or umpire. In these latter cases the revolving table may be enclosed in a sealed box having a glass top so arranged that the table, ball and pockets may be seen but not touched, means being provided for dropping the ball down a shute or the like on to the table and with further means for rotating the table by a shaft or other suitable mechanism passing through a hole or slot in the top, bottom or side of the casing with a manipulating handle or knob exterior to the casing. In some cases the pockets may have removable bottoms or sides so arranged, that after one or more balls have been placed in a pocket or pockets, the umpire controlling the game may be able, by suitable means, incapable of being operated by the players, to remove the bottoms or sides to allow the balls to drop through into a drawer, hopper or

shute situated below the tables or in the bottom of the casing. A suitable means of accomplishing this purpose is to form the pockets in the shape of a series of circular holes arranged in a circle around the edge of the revolving table, these holes being cut to coincide with each other through two discs or plates, one or other or both being capable of being rotatably moved in reference each to each, the holes in the top plate forming the sides of the pockets and the interspaces between the holes in the lower plate forming the bottom of the pockets when the holes in the two plates do not register in such manner that when one plate is moved to bring the holes into register the balls are allowed to drop through into a drawer or shute as described.

In some cases the apparatus may be arranged so as to act in an automatic or semi-automatic manner, the pockets or some of them being provided with means whereby, when a ball falls into the pocket, a lever, spring or other device is operated to release a prize or return the players' money. In the case of a coin-freed form of apparatus means would be provided whereby the ball or balls in any of the pockets are returned to the disc, for replay, on the insertion of a fresh coin.

The table or rotatory playing surface may be plain, corrugated, or may be provided with obstacles, trackways, or the like, whereby the passage of the ball to the periphery may be lengthened, obstructed or rendered tortuous.

Instead of a table we may employ a tube in which the ball may travel out radially to be discharged into one of the pockets.

Generally it may be stated that the apparatus comprises a rotatory carrier for a ball or the like and stationary receptacles around the carrier for the receipt of the ball when projected, by the action of the player, from the rotatory carrier.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing, in which:—

Fig. 1 represents a central vertical section of the apparatus,

Fig. 2 being a plan thereof.

From a base 1 projects upwardly a central vertical tubular bearing 2 for the stem 3 of a rotatable table 4. This stem 3 is prolonged upwardly by a tube 5 having a lateral hole 6 (or it may have more than one hole) situated above the top of the stem, and having a flaring mouthpiece or hopper 7, through which the balls used in the game are delivered on to the table 4, and which mouthpiece

also acts as the means by which the tube, and with it the table 4, may be spun.

The upper surface of the table 4 is concave, and its outer edge is shown as bevelled, but it may be flat, or upwardly or downwardly inclined.

Around the circumference of the table 4 is a stationary ring 8, having a series of openings 9 all round the table, on about the same level as the upper surface thereof. Radial plates, wires or divisions may be arranged between each hole and its neighbours.

The ring 8 is stamped out from sheet metal, and is constituted by the inner horizontal circular portion containing the holes 9 referred to, and an outer vertical portion 10 which is secured to the wall 11, or outer casing of the apparatus.

Below the ring 8 is a circular ring 12 which acts as a support for the balls when they pass into the holes 9. This ring is provided with a series of holes 13 which, by a slight rotating movement of the ring, can be brought in alignment with the holes 9, when it is desired to discharge the balls in the holes into the lower part of the apparatus, from whence they can be removed through a closable opening.

The ring 12 is supported and guided between the horizontal portion 8<sup>a</sup> of the ring 8, and brackets 14, between which the outer circular edge 12<sup>a</sup> of the ring 12 engages. An arm or handle 15 is attached to the ring 12, its outer end projecting through the wall of the casing, to act as the means whereby the ring 12 may be rotated to a small extent to enable the balls in the holes 9 to drop through into the base, or on to a delivery chute, a suitable spring (not shown) being provided to return the handle to its original position.

Each hole 9 in the ring 8 is numbered, these numbers being shown on the part 8<sup>a</sup> of the ring.

The casing is provided with a glass cover 16 to prevent tampering with the apparatus when in use.

Instead of a series of holes in the stationary ring we may provide a series of flaps or doors against one of which the ball, when projected beyond the end of the table, will strike and pass through, the door being so arranged that it will not allow the ball to return, or means may be provided to retain the ball in the compartment.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of our said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

1. Apparatus for use in playing a game of skill, consisting of the combination of an inner central rotatable member having a concave upper surface, an outer stationary circular member having a series of holes or compartments adapted to receive a ball projected centrifugally from the central member when the latter is rotated and a hollow central shaft into which the ball to be projected is dropped, and from whence it passes out centrifugally on to the rotatable member integral with the shaft substantially as described.

2. Apparatus for use in playing a game of skill as set forth in Claiming Clause 1, in which below or beyond the stationary circular member a movable ball-retaining and releasing member is arranged, substantially as described.

3. Apparatus for use in playing a game of skill, substantially as described or as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 12th day of September, 1923.

DICKER & POLLAK,  
Chartered Patent Agents,  
20—23, Holborn, London, E.C. 1,  
Agents for the Applicants.

[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

